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(54) **Cutting unit for cutting blanks for collars of rigid cigarette packets**

Schneideinheit zum Abtrennen von Zuschnitten für Krägen von steifen Zigarettenverpackungen

Unité de découpe de flans pour des colliers de paquets rigides de cigarettes

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a cutting unit for cutting blanks for collars of rigid cigarette packets.

[0002] More specifically, the present invention relates to a cutting unit for cutting blanks for collars of rigid cigarette packets, the cutting unit being of the type comprising a cutting station; a feed line for feeding a continuous strip of packing material in a given direction along a feed path extending through the cutting station; and a cutting device located at the cutting station to cut the strip into a succession of blanks; the cutting device comprising a fixed cutting block having a counterblade; a knife mounted to rotate about a fixed axis of rotation crosswise to said direction, and having a blade cooperating scissor-fashion with the counterblade; and actuating means connected to the knife to oscillate the knife, about said axis of rotation, between a first position in which the knife and the cutting block are located on opposite sides of the feed path, and a second position in which the blade and the counterblade are located on the same side of the feed path. Such a machine is known from EP-A-1013557.

[0003] On cigarette packing machines for producing rigid hinged-lid packets of cigarettes, a cutting unit of the type described above is used in combination with an incision unit comprising one or more movable members for forming longitudinal fold lines on the continuous strip at an incision station located upstream from the cutting station.

[0004] Producing collar blanks as described above calls for respective movable members with respective actuating devices at both the incision and cutting stations, and for extremely accurate positioning of the incision station with respect to the cutting station, thus complicating the mechanics and increasing the cost of the cutting unit.

[0005] It is an object of the present invention to provide a cutting unit for cutting blanks for collars of rigid cigarette packets, designed to eliminate the aforementioned drawbacks, and which is cheap and easy to produce.

[0006] According to the present invention, there is provided a cutting unit for cutting blanks for collars of rigid cigarette packets, as claimed in Claim 1 or in any one of the following Claims depending directly or indirectly on Claim 1.

[0007] A non-limiting embodiment of the present invention will be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a partly sectioned side view of a preferred embodiment of the cutting unit according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is similar to Figure 1, and shows the cutting unit in a different operating configuration;

Figure 3 shows a view in perspective of a detail in Figure 1;

Figure 4 shows a front view of a detail in Figure 2.

[0008] Number 1 in Figure 1 indicates as a whole a

cutting unit for producing collars 2 for rigid cigarette packets (not shown).

[0009] As shown in Figure 4, each collar 2 is formed from a flat blank 3 comprising a central panel 4, which has an axis 5 of symmetry and is connected laterally to two lateral panels 6, specular with respect to axis 5, along respective fold lines 7 parallel to and symmetrical with respect to axis 5. Along each fold line 7, which extends between two identical opposite end edges 8 and 9 of flat blank 3, a C-shaped through slit 10 is formed which, when relative lateral panel 6 is folded squarely with respect to central panel 4 about relative fold line 7, defines a respective wing 11 projecting outwards of the relative folded lateral panel 6.

[0010] Each blank 3 is formed by transversely cutting, along relative edges 8 and 9, a continuous strip 12 of cardboard or similar having a longitudinal axis coincident with axis 5, and which is step-fed in a direction 13, and along a path P extending through a cutting station 14, by a feed line 15 forming part of cutting unit 1 (and only an end portion of which is shown).

[0011] In addition to feed line 15, cutting unit 1 also comprises a cutting device 16 located at cutting station 14 and in turn comprising a fixed cutting block 17; a knife 18 movable to and from cutting block 17 to cut each blank 3 along relative edges 8 and 9; and an actuating device 19 for activating knife 18.

[0012] Cutting block 17 is defined by a plate 20 having a front contact surface 21, which faces knife 18, is tangent to path P, and is located on the opposite side of path P to knife 18. Plate 20 is bounded, at a rear end (in the travelling direction 13 of strip 12) by a counterblade 22 integral with plate 20, positioned crosswise to direction 13, and shaped to reproduce edges 8 and 9. As shown in Figure 3, longitudinal slits 23a, 23b, of the same shape and size as respective fold lines 7 and respective slits 10 of a blank 3, are formed on surface 21.

[0013] Knife 18 is defined by a plate 24 connected rigidly at one end to one arm 25 of a rocker arm 26, which forms part of actuating device 19 and is hinged by a pin 27 to a frame 28 to oscillate about an axis 29 crosswise to path P and coplanar with surface 21, and to move knife 18 between a withdrawn rest position (Figure 1) in which knife 18 is positioned outwards of path P and facing cutting block 17, and a forward work position (Figure 2) in which knife 18 rests against cutting block 17.

[0014] As shown in Figure 3, an intermediate portion of plate 24 is fitted with a blade 30, which projects from plate 24 towards cutting block 17, has a front edge shaped to reproduce edges 8 and 9, and cooperates scissor-fashion with counterblade 22 to cut strip 12 transversely when knife 18 is in the forward work position. An end portion of plate 24, upstream from blade 30 in direction 13, defines an incision member 31, which has a flat surface 32 facing surface 21 of cutting block 17, and comprises incision elements 33a and 33b projecting from surface 32 and which cooperate with longitudinal slits 23a and 23b in surface 21 to form respective fold lines 7 and

respective slits 10.

[0015] As shown in Figures 1 and 2, in addition to arm 25, rocker arm 26 also comprises a V-shaped arm 34 fitted at one end to pin 27, and fitted at its two free ends with respective cam followers 35, which engage opposite surfaces of a double cam 36 forming part of actuating device 19 and fitted to frame 28 to rotate about a respective axis (not shown) parallel to axis 29. Double cam 36 is designed to oscillate rocker arm 26 in a constant sequence of operating cycles, in each of which, knife 18 moves from the withdrawn rest position to the forward work position and vice versa, and, in use, is activated in time with feed line 15 so that each operating cycle corresponds to one step of strip 12 along path P.

[0016] As shown in Figures 1 and 2, actuating device 19 also comprises a reaction assembly 37 connected to knife 18 and in turn comprising a crank 38 hinged to frame 28 by a pin 39 to oscillate about a respective axis 40 parallel to axis 29. Reaction assembly 37 also comprises a connecting rod 41, one end of which is hinged to the free end of crank 38 by a respective pin 42 parallel to axis 29, and the other end of which is hinged, by a pin 43 parallel to axis 29, to a bracket 44 connected rigidly to a surface of incision member 31 opposite surface 32.

[0017] Reaction assembly 37 also comprises a further connecting rod 45, the ends of which are hinged, by means of respective pins 46 and 47 parallel to axis 29, to an intermediate portion of crank 38, and, respectively, to a free end of an arm 48, which is fitted to pin 27, is integral with arm 25, and projects beyond arm 25.

[0018] In use, oscillation of rocker arm 26 about axis 29 is therefore transmitted by arm 48 and connecting rod 45 to crank 38, which is movable between a lowered position (Figure 1) corresponding to the withdrawn rest position of knife 18 and in which crank 38 and connecting rod 41 are perpendicular to each other, and a raised position (Figure 2) corresponding to the forward work position of knife 18 and in which crank 38 and connecting rod 41 are aligned with each other and substantially perpendicular to surfaces 32 and 21.

[0019] Operation of cutting device 16 will now be described as of the instant in which strip 12, step-fed by feed line 15 along path P, is arrested in front of surface 21 with an end portion projecting beyond counterblade 22. At this point, knife 18, initially in the withdrawn rest position (Figure 1), is activated to move into the forward work position (Figure 2). In the course of this step, blade 30 moves through path P and, cooperating scissor-fashion with counterblade 22, transversely cuts the end portion of the strip projecting beyond counterblade 22 to form a blank 3. At the same time, incision member 31 strikes surface 21 and grips, between surface 21 and surface 32, a portion of strip 12 as long as blank 3 and located immediately upstream from counterblade 22 to form two fold lines 7 and two slits 10 by means of incision elements 33a and 33b.

[0020] In connection with the above, it should be pointed out that reaction assembly 37 provides not only for

completing the travel of knife 18 towards cutting block 17, by virtue of crank 38 and connecting rod 41, aligned by connecting rod 45 and arm 48, pressing incision member 31 against surface 21, but also for discharging the reaction, transmitted by cutting block 17 to knife 18, directly on pin 39 and so preventing it from being transmitted to rocker arm 26.

[0021] Cutting unit 1 therefore provides for producing from a strip 12, at one cutting station 14 and by means of one cutting device 16, a succession of blanks 3 with respective fold lines 7 and respective slits 10, by cutting each blank 3 along a relative edge 9 and, at the same time, forming fold lines 7 and slits 10 on the portion of strip 12 immediately upstream from edge 9.

Claims

1. A cutting unit for cutting blanks for collars of rigid cigarette packets, comprising a cutting station (14); a feed line (15) for feeding a continuous strip (12) of packing material in a given direction (13) along a given feed path (P) extending through the cutting station (14); and a cutting device (16) located at the cutting station (14) to cut the strip (12) into a succession of blanks (3); the cutting device (16) comprising a fixed cutting block (17) having a counterblade (22); a knife (18) mounted to rotate about a fixed axis (29) of rotation crosswise to said direction (13), and having a blade (30) cooperating with the counterblade (22); and actuating means (19) connected to the knife (18) to oscillate the knife (18), about said axis (29) of rotation, between a first position in which the knife (18) and the cutting block (17) are located on opposite sides of the feed path (P), and a second position in which the blade (30) and the counterblade (22) are located on the same side of the feed path (P); the unit (1) being **characterized in that** the cutting block (17) comprises a contact surface (21) located along the feed path (P) upstream from the counterblade (22); and the knife (18) comprises an incision member (31) integral with the blade (30) and facing the contact surface (21) to press the strip (12) against the contact surface (21) when the knife (18) is in the second position.
2. A unit as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the contact surface (21) comprises a number of slits (23a, 23b), and the incision member (31) comprises a number of incision elements (33a, 33b); the incision elements (33a, 33b) cooperating with said slits (23a, 23b) to form fold lines (7) and incisions (10) on the strip (12) when the knife (18) is in said second position.
3. A unit as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein said actuating means (19) are cam actuating means.
4. A unit as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein

the actuating means (19) comprise a rotary cam (36); a rocker arm (26) fitted to said axis (29) of rotation; and a cam follower (35) interposed between the cam (36) and the rocker arm (26); the knife (18) being connected rigidly to the rocker arm (26).

5. A unit as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the actuating means (19) comprise a reaction assembly (37) located on the opposite side of the knife (18) to the cutting block (17) and connected to the incision member (31) to absorb a reaction force transmitted by the contact surface (21) to the incision member (31) when the knife (18) is in the second position.
6. A unit as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the reaction assembly (37) comprises a crank (38) mounted to oscillate about a relative axis (40) parallel to said axis (29) of rotation; a first connecting rod (45) interposed between the crank (38) and the rocker arm (26); and a second connecting rod (41) interposed between the crank (38) and the incision member (31); the crank (38) being moved, by the rocker arm (26) and the first connecting rod (45), between a rest position corresponding to said first position, and a work position corresponding to said second position; the crank (38) and the second connecting rod (41) being aligned with each other and substantially perpendicular to the contact surface (21) when the crank (38) is in said work position.

Patentansprüche

1. Schneideeinheit zum Zuschneiden von Rohlingen für Manschetten starrer Zigarettenpackungen, mit einer Schneidestation (14); einer Zuführlinie (15) zum Zuführen eines ununterbrochenen Streifens (12) von Packungsmaterial in einer gegebenen Richtung (13) längs eines gegebenen Zuführwegs (P), der sich durch die Schneidestation (14) erstreckt; und einer Schneidevorrichtung (16), die sich an der Schneidestation (14) befindet, um den Streifen (12) in eine Folge von Zuschnitten (3) abzuschneiden; wobei die Schneidevorrichtung (16) einen festen Schneideblock (17) mit einer Gegenklinge (22); ein Messer (18), das drehbar um eine feste Drehachse (29) quer zu der Richtung (13) angebracht ist und eine Klinge (30), die mit der Gegenklinge (22) zusammenwirkt, besitzt; und Betätigungsmittel (19), die mit dem Messer (18) verbunden sind, um das Messer (18) um die Drehachse (29) zwischen einer ersten Position, in der sich das Messer (18) und der Schneideblock (17) auf gegenüberliegenden Seiten des Zuführwegs (P) befinden, und einer zweiten Position, in der sich die Klinge (30) und die Gegenklinge (22) auf derselben Seite des Zuführwegs (P) befinden, oszillieren zu lassen, umfasst; wobei die Einheit

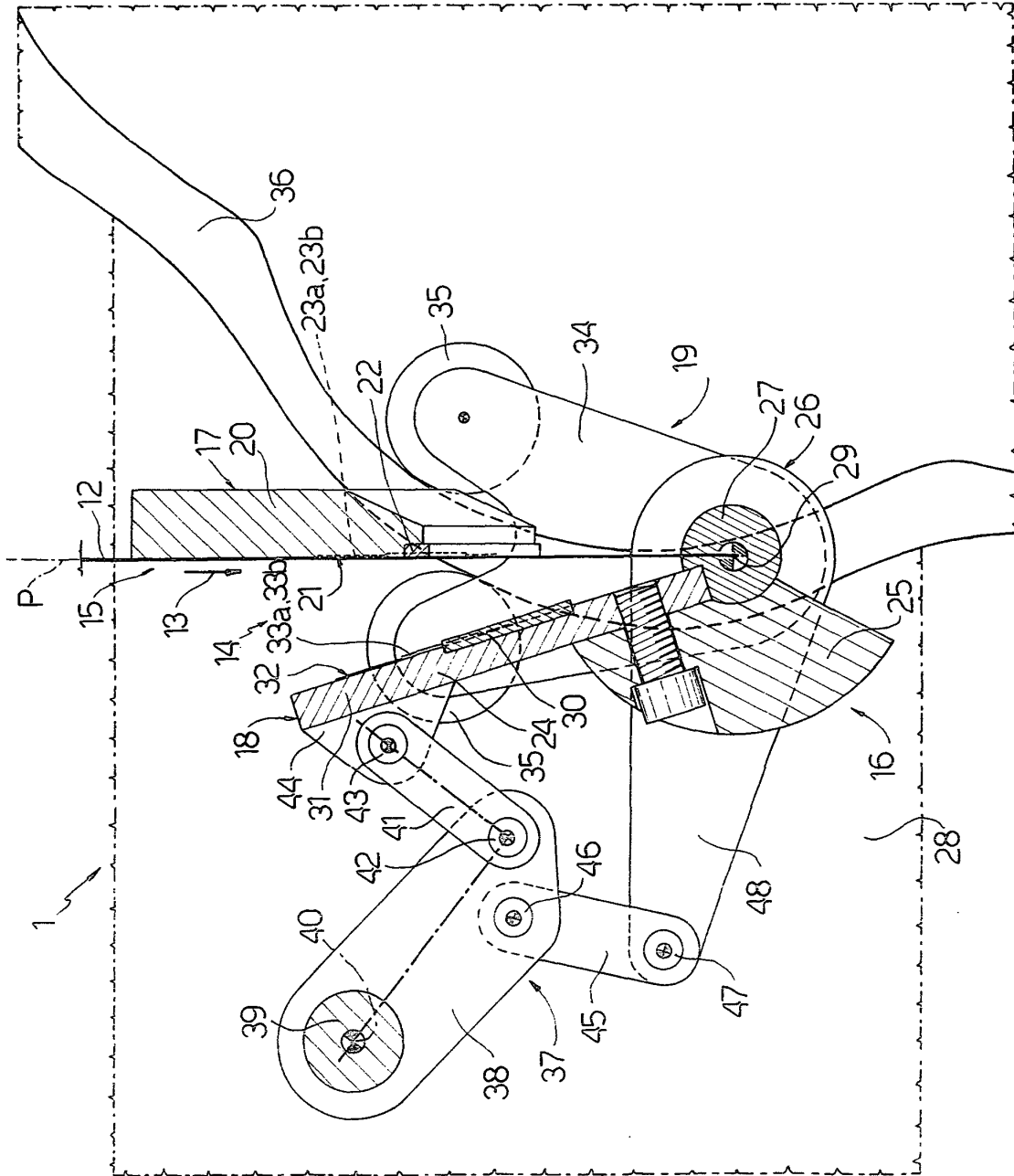
(1) **dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, dass** der Schneideblock (17) eine Kontaktoberfläche (21) aufweist, die sich längs des Zuführwegs (P) stromaufseitig von der Gegenklinge (22) befindet; und das Messer (18) ein Schnittorgan (31) umfasst, das einteilig mit der Klinge (30) ausgebildet ist und sich gegenüber der Kontaktoberfläche (21) befindet, um den Streifen (12) gegen die Kontaktoberfläche (21) zu pressen, wenn sich das Messer (18) in der zweiten Position befindet.

2. Einheit nach Anspruch 1, bei der die Kontaktoberfläche (21) zahlreiche Schlitzte (23a, 23b) umfasst und das Schnittorgan (31) zahlreiche Schnittelemente (33a, 33b) aufweist; wobei die Schnittelemente (33a, 33b) mit den Schlitzten (23a, 23b) zusammenwirken, um Faltlinien (7) und Einschnitte (10) auf dem Streifen (12) zu bilden, wenn sich das Messer (18) in der zweiten Position befindet.
3. Einheit nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, bei der die Betätigungsmittel (19) Nockenbetätigungsmittel sind.
4. Einheit nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, bei der die Betätigungsmittel (19) einen rotierenden Nocken (36); einen Kipphebelarm (26), der an der Drehachse (29) befestigt ist; und einen Nockenfolger (35), der zwischen den Nocken (36) und den Kipphebelarm (26) eingefügt ist, umfasst; wobei das Messer (18) mit dem Kipphebelarm (26) starr verbunden ist.
5. Einheit nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, bei dem die Betätigungsmittel (19) eine Reaktionsbaueinheit (37) umfassen, die sich auf der gegenüberliegenden Seite des Messers (18) in Bezug auf den Schneideblock (17) befindet und mit dem Schnittelement (31) verbunden ist, um eine Gegenkraft, die von der Kontaktoberfläche (21) auf das Schnittorgan (31) übertragen wird, zu absorbieren, wenn sich das Messer (18) in der zweiten Position befindet.
6. Einheit nach Anspruch 5, bei der die Reaktionsbaueinheit (37) eine Kurbel (38), die so angebracht ist, dass sie um eine relative Achse (40) parallel zu der Drehachse (29) oszillieren kann; eine erste Verbindungsstange (45), die zwischen die Kurbel (38) und den Kipphebelarm (26) eingefügt ist; und eine zweite Verbindungsstange (41), die zwischen die Kurbel (38) und das Schnittorgan (31) eingefügt ist, umfasst; wobei die Kurbel (38) durch den Kipphebelarm (26) und die erste Verbindungsstange (45) zwischen einer Ruheposition, die der ersten Position entspricht, und einer Arbeitsposition, die der zweiten Position entspricht, bewegt wird; wobei die Kurbel (38) und die zweite Verbindungsstange (41) aufeinander ausgerichtet sind und zu der Kontaktoberfläche (21) im Wesentlichen senkrecht sind, wenn sich die Kurbel (38) in der Arbeitsposition befindet.

Revendications

1. Unité de coupe pour couper des flans pour des colerettes de paquets de cigarettes rigides, comprenant une station de coupe (14) ; une chaîne d'alimentation (15) pour distribuer une bande continue (12) de matériau d'emballage dans une direction donnée (13) le long d'une trajectoire d'alimentation donnée (P) s'étendant à travers la station de coupe (14) ; et un dispositif de coupe (16) situé à la station de coupe (14) pour couper la bande (12) en une succession de flans (3) ; le dispositif de coupe (16) comprenant un bloc de coupe fixe (17) comportant une contre-lame (22) ; un couteau (18) monté pour tourner autour d'un axe fixe (29) de rotation transversalement à ladite direction (13), et comportant une lame (30) coopérant avec la contre-lame (22) ; et un moyen d'actionnement (19) relié au couteau (18) pour faire osciller le couteau (18), autour dudit axe (29) de rotation, entre une première position dans laquelle le couteau (18) et le bloc de coupe (17) sont situés sur des côtés opposés de la trajectoire d'alimentation (P), et une deuxième position dans laquelle la lame (30) et la contre-lame (22) sont situées sur le même côté de la trajectoire d'alimentation (P) ; l'unité (1) étant **caractérisée en ce que** le bloc de coupe (17) comprend une surface de contact (21) située le long de la trajectoire d'alimentation (P) en amont de la contre-lame (22) ; et le couteau (18) comprend un organe d'incision (31) d'un seul tenant avec la lame (30) et faisant face à la surface de contact (21) pour presser la bande (12) contre la surface de contact (21) lorsque le couteau (18) est dans la deuxième position.
2. Unité selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle la surface de contact (21) comprend un nombre de fentes (23a, 23b), et l'organe d'incision (31) comprend un nombre d'éléments d'incision (33a, 33b) ; les éléments d'incision (33a, 33b) coopérant avec lesdites fentes (23a, 23b) pour former des lignes de pliage (7) et des incisions (10) sur la bande (12) lorsque le couteau (18) est dans ladite deuxième position.
3. Unité selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans laquelle ledit moyen d'actionnement (19) est un moyen d'actionnement à came.
4. Unité selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans laquelle le moyen d'actionnement (19) comprend une came rotative (36) ; un bras oscillant (26) fixé audit axe (29) de rotation ; et un suiveur de came (35) intercalé entre la came (36) et le bras oscillant (26) ; le couteau (18) étant relié rigidement au bras oscillant (26).
5. Unité selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, dans laquelle le moyen d'actionnement (19) comprend un ensemble de réaction (37) situé sur le côté du couteau (18) à l'opposé du bloc de coupe (17) et relié à l'organe d'incision (31) pour absorber une force de réaction transmise par la surface de contact (21) à l'organe d'incision (31) lorsque le couteau (18) est dans la deuxième position.
6. Unité selon la revendication 5, dans laquelle l'ensemble de réaction (37) comprend une manivelle (38) montée pour osciller autour d'un axe relatif (40) parallèle audit axe (29) de rotation ; une première bielle (45) intercalée entre la manivelle (38) et le bras oscillant (26) ; et une deuxième bielle (41) intercalée entre la manivelle (38) et l'organe d'incision (31) ; la manivelle (38) étant déplacée, par le bras oscillant (26) et la première bielle (45), entre une position de repos correspondant à ladite première position, et une position de travail correspondant à ladite deuxième position ; la manivelle (38) et la deuxième bielle (41) étant alignées l'une avec l'autre et sensiblement perpendiculaires à la surface de contact (21) lorsque la manivelle (38) est dans ladite position de travail.

Fig.1



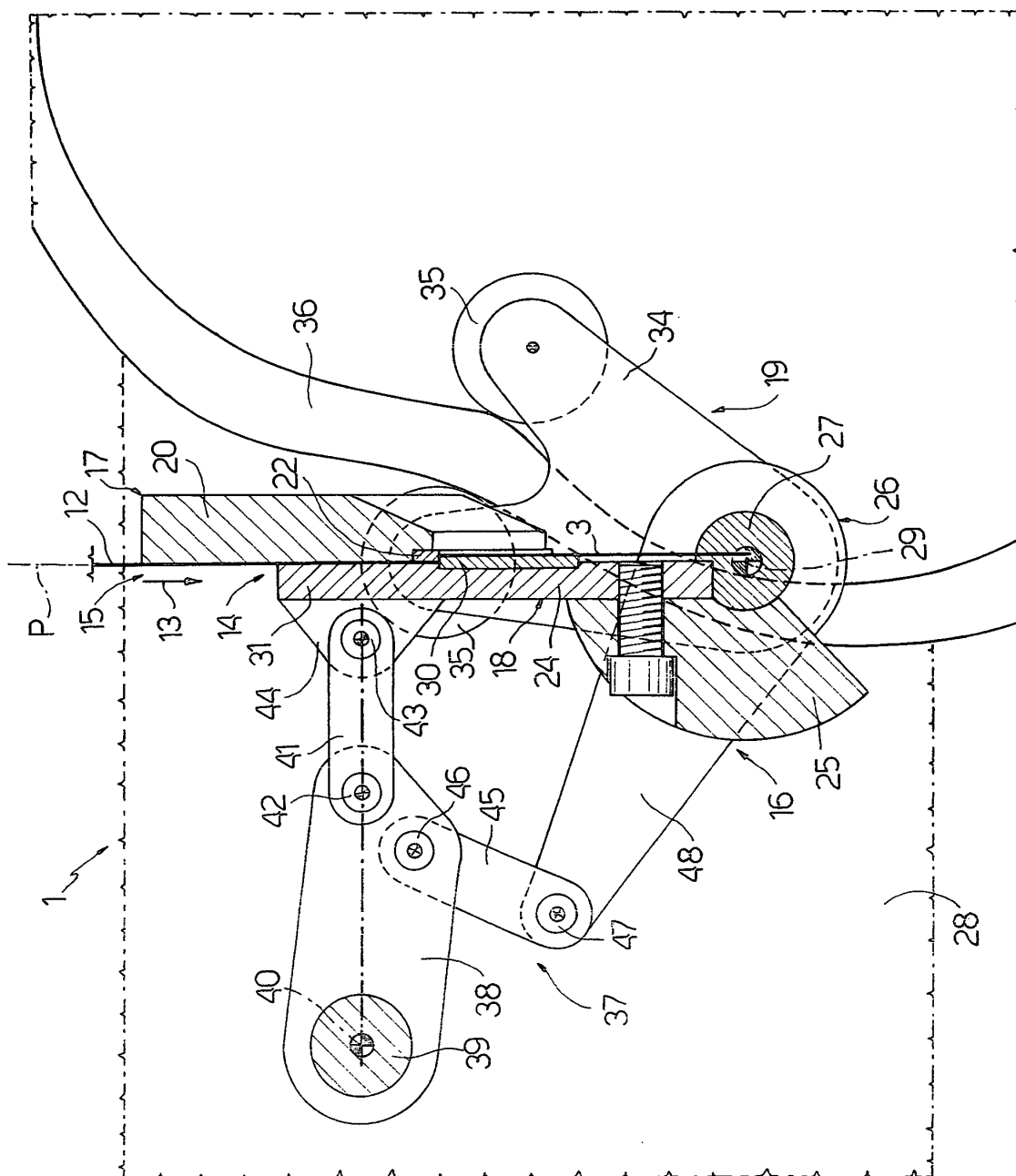


Fig. 2

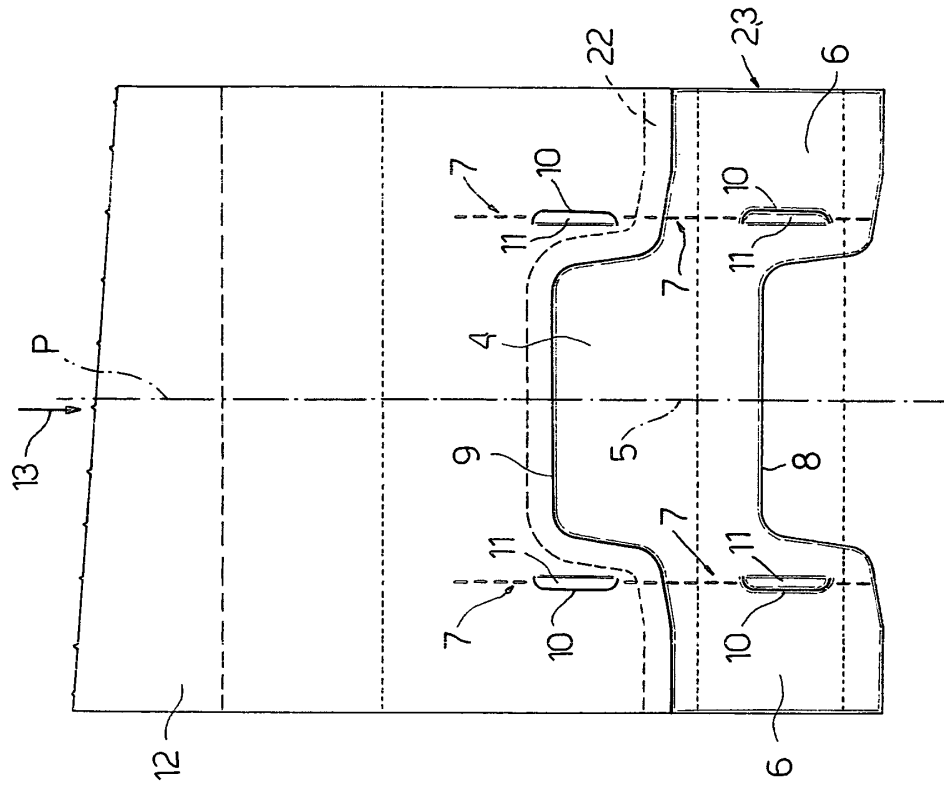


Fig. 4

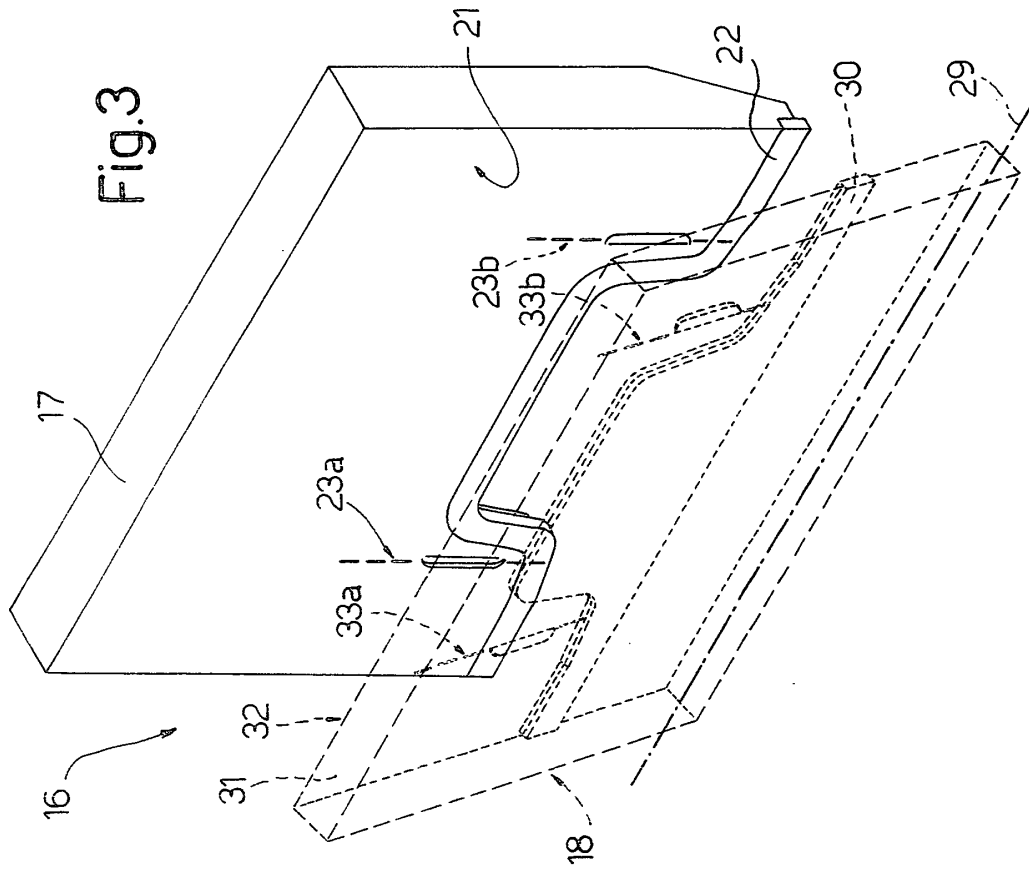


Fig. 3